

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 EA-06 AID-05 SR-02 EB-07 COME-00

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 STR-04 INT-05 OES-03 FEAE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 SAM-01 SAB-01

NEA-09 /112 W

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P R 181435Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4794

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS

1. REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY ADDRESS HAS BEEN SCANT. OF LIMA'S FIVE MAJOR MORNING DAILIES, ONLY TWO (LA PRENSA AND EL COMERCIO) REPORTED ADDRESS ON APRIL 11. BOTH MENTIONED PRESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR \$772 MILLION FOR SOUTH VIETNAM. AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, LA PRENSA WAS ONLY NEWSPAPER WHICH MENTIONED PRESIDENT FORD'S REQUEST TO CONGRESS THAT OPEC MEMBERSHIP NOT PRECLUDE

ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA FROM ELIGIBILITY FOR TRADE PREFERENCES.

2. EXCEPT FOR MORE MODERATE EL COMERCIO, PERUVIAN PRESS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TELEVISION HAVE PORTRAYED CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM DRAMA AS A STRUG-

GLE BETWEEN "PATROITS" AND IMPERIALISTS. APRIL 17 GOVERNMENT OWNED CRONICA BANNER HEADLINED "CAMBODIA LIBERATED". ON APRIL 13, SAME NEWSPAPER EDITORIALIZED: "IT IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE AMERICAN EMPIRE. THAT IS THE PRFOUND SIGNIFICANE WHICH THE IMMINENT TRIUMPH OF THE LIBERATION FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA HAS FOR THE THIRD WORLD".

3. THE IMPACT OF EVENTS ON LEFTIST RULED PERU IS CLEAR. EVENTS ARE PORTRAYED AS A VICTORY OF SOCIALISM OVER CAPITALISM. FROM THE GOP'S PERSPECTIVE, PORTUGAL'S LEFTWARDS COURSE REINFORCES THE OFFICIAL LINE THAT SOCIALISM IS THE BEST MEDICINE FOR UNDER-DEVELOPMENT. THIS LINE IS ACCOMPANIED BY SHARP ATTACKS ON AMERICAN "CAPITALISM" AND JOY WHEN THE "CAPITALIST-IMPERIALISTS" SUFFER SETBACKS.

4. MANY ANTI-REGIME, PRO-WESTERN PERUVIANS ARE UNDOUDTEDLY DISTRESSED BY PERCEIVED U.S. DEFEATS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, PROTUGAL AND THE MIDDLE EAST. TO THEM, THE U.S. APPEARS HELPLESS TO STOP ITS ENEMIES AND -- IN THE RECENT WORDS OF AN APRA LABOR LEADER -- UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO HELP ITS FRIENDS. FRIENDLY PERUVIANS ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY PERCEIVED U.S. PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE OF "POS OF ALL FOREIGN INVOLVEMENT." U.S. PILLORYING OF CIA DISCOURAGES OUR FRIENDS EVEN MORE. IN ESSENCE, SOME PERUVIANS ARE WORRIED THAT THE AMERICAN MOOD IS ONE OF INDIFFERENCE TO WHETHER PARTS OF THE WORLD (INCLUDING PERU) DRIFT FURTHER TO THE LEFT AND EVEN TOWARDS COMMUNISM.
DEAN

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